

Amendments to the Drawings:

Applicants have replaced the term "Figure" with the abbreviation "FIG." in the drawings. The attached sheets of drawings include changes to FIGs. 1-13. These sheets, which includes FIGs. 1-13, replaces the original sheets including Figures 1-13.

Attachment: Replacement sheets

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed on May 19, 2003, wherein Claims 1-14 were rejected. Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 12, and 14 have been amended, and Claims 3 and 9 have been canceled. Claims 1-2, 4-8, and 10-14 remain pending.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC §102 and 103

On page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1, 2, 5, and 6 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Yonemura et al. On page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1, 3, 5, and 6 under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Blackwell et al. On page 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1, 4, 6, and 7 under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by He et al. On page 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 8, 10, and 11 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Yonemura et al. On page 7 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 8 and 11 under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Blackwell et al. On page 7 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 8, 9, and 11 under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by He et al. On page 8 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 12 and 13 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Yonemura et al. On page 9 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claim 14 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Yonemura et al. On page 9 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claim 14 under USC §102(e) as being anticipated by He et al. On page 10 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claim 7 under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over Yonemura et al. or Blackwell et al. in view of He et al.

Applicants have amended Claim 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 12, and 14 to better describe the present invention. Claim 1 includes claim elements directed to a monolithic honeycomb particulate structure having axial bands. Claim 8 includes claim elements that describe a monolithic honeycomb particulate trap where microwave absorbing material is discretely deposited in linear fashion along the walls of the particulate trap.

Claim 12 includes claim elements where microwave absorbing material is discretely deposited in linear fashion along the inner surfaces of the particulate trap. Claim 14 includes claim elements that describe a monolithic honeycomb particulate trap where microwave absorbing material is discretely deposited in linear segments along the walls of the particulate trap.

Yonemura et al. generally discloses a particulate filter with microwave absorbing material fully integrated into the walls or structure of the particulate trap, as described in column 3, lines 19-30. The microwave absorbing material is added to the fibers and clays of the particulate filter during the molding process for the particulate filter. Furthermore, Yonemura discloses that the microwave absorbing materials are gradually reduced over the length of the particulate trap, as disclosed in column 40-53. Yonemura is completely silent with respect to the discrete deposition of microwave absorbing materials in any form, including linear segments and axial bands.

Blackwell et al. discloses a filter media for particulate exhaust that consists of a spirally wound filter sheet with microwave absorbing material, as disclosed in column 5, lines 35-50. Blackwell et al. is completely silent with respect to a monolithic honeycomb particulate trap. The use and manufacturing of a filter sheet/filter and monolithic particulate trap are fundamentally different.

He et al. discloses a particulate filter for trapping and combusting particles with a microwave absorbing washcoat, as disclosed in column 2, lines 50-55. The coating extends over the entire surface of the particulate filter and contains no discrete heating elements, as disclosed in column 2, lines 54-56, column 6, lines 60-65, and Claim 1. He et al. is completely silent with respect to the thrifting and discrete application of microwave absorbent material in a particulate trap.

The claimed present invention includes a monolithic honeycomb particulate trap made from a microwave transparent material with discrete deposition of microwave absorbing materials. The references of Yonemura et al., Blackwell et al., and He et al. singly, or in combination do not teach or suggest the present claimed invention.

Conclusion

The entire Office Action dated May 19, 2003, has been carefully reviewed, and this response is submitted as being fully responsive thereto. In view of the preceding remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1, 2, 4-8, and 10-14 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request such action at the Examiner's earliest convenience. If the Examiner believes that personal contact would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, he is requested to call the undersigned at his earliest convenience.

If for some reason a fee needs to be paid, please charge Deposit Account No. 07-0960 for the fees which may be due.

Respectfully submitted,



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